



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

A new fern from Panama *

WILLIAM R. MAXON

The following new species of *Dicranopteris* was noted recently in determining a duplicate set of the ferns collected in Panama by Mr. R. S. Williams, of the New York Botanical Garden, in 1908:

***Dicranopteris Williamsii* Maxon sp. nov.**

Rhizome short-creeping, closely branched, slender, about 2 mm. in diameter, castaneous, rather freely radicose, sparsely clothed with spreading coriaceous lanceolate-attenuate rigidly spinescent-ciliate scales about 1.5 mm. long; primary leaf-axes borne about 1 cm. apart, slender, 1.2 mm. in diameter, about 35 cm. long, light brown from a castaneous base, terete, and glabrous below the first pair of primary branches, above these olivaceous, delicately and deciduously squamulose (the scales minute, fimbriate-stellate), and bearing an occasional larger dark scale similar to those of the rhizome; primary branches 2 pairs, 11 cm. apart, provided with small deeply laciniate foliaceous stipules, simple, 26 to 30 cm. long, 3.5 to 5 cm. broad, narrowly oblong-lanceolate, acuminate, pectinate throughout, the rachis light brown, very narrowly marginate above, convex below, and bearing a few scattered rigidly long-ciliate stiff opaque dark-castaneous ovate scales about 0.75 mm. long; pinnules (segments) 40 to 50 pairs, distant (4 to 6 mm. apart), all at right angles to the rachis, linear, adnate, very slightly surcurrent, acutish, 2 to 2.8 cm. long, 2.5 to 3 mm. broad, the margins entire and lightly revolute, the costae evident and glabrous above, elevated below and bearing occasional minute yellowish to yellowish brown deeply laciniate scales; veins 25 to 35 pairs, nearly at right angles to the costa, once forked at the base, evident on both surfaces; sori few, 3-5-sporangiate, medial or slightly inframedial, seated upon the anterior branch; leaf tissue delicately herbaceous, yellowish green above, slightly glaucous below.

* Published by permission of the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution.

Type in the U. S. National Herbarium, no. 579209, collected near Cana, Panama, April 17 to June 8, 1908, by R. S. Williams, no. 917.

D. Williamsii is related to *D. orthoclada* (Christ) Underw. of the interior mountain region of Costa Rica, a species which differs widely in its glabrous condition throughout, its shorter and broader branches, its somewhat flexuous rachises, its few and conspicuously surcurrent segments, its much heavier costae, and its widely branched veins.

The peculiar morphology of the family Gleicheniaceae, represented in America by the genus *Dicranopteris*, is discussed at some length in a paper by Dr. Underwood,* which is doubtless available to many members of the American Fern Society. Most of the species grow on barren, open or partially shaded slopes, often in very great profusion and forming dense, tangled thickets of wide extent. The commonest North American member of the genus is *Dicranopteris bifida*.

WASHINGTON, D. C.

A plea for fern protection

ORRA PARKER PHELPS

In the year 1869, the Connecticut legislature passed an act prohibiting the gathering of the climbing fern, *Lygodium palmatum*. Prior to that time, this beautiful fern had been extensively collected and sold for decorative purposes. Since the passing of the act, I am told by those who have lived in the climbing fern regions, it has recovered from its threatened extinction and again makes beautiful its chosen swamps and fields.

At the present time the wooded hills are each summer infested by swarms of men and boys who come from the

* Bull. Torrey Club 34: 243-262. 1907.